

**To:** Dreyfus, Melissa G.[Dreyfus.Melissa@epa.gov]; Stalcup, Dana[Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov]; Fitz-James, Schatzi[Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov]; Mahmud, Shahid[Mahmud.Shahid@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Wells, Suzanne[Wells.Suzanne@epa.gov]  
**From:** Ostrander, David  
**Sent:** Wed 9/30/2015 6:32:00 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Denver Post (ddl cob tomorrow): GKM looking ahead

Good with edits to #2

**From:** Dreyfus, Melissa G.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 12:15 PM  
**To:** Stalcup, Dana; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Mahmud, Shahid  
**Cc:** Ostrander, David; Wells, Suzanne  
**Subject:** RE: Denver Post (ddl cob tomorrow): GKM looking ahead

Dana, Shahid and David,

Please see suggestions for edits to #2. Response to #1 seems fine, but as time goes on, I agree with Dana that it would be worthwhile to think about a standard answer about EPA's potential long-term involvement such as NPL listing, etc.

2. I'm also curious to see if plugging the R&B will increase flows from the GKM?

~~There are no~~ EPA is not aware of direct mining tunnel connections between the Red & Bonita Mine and the Gold King Mine, though there may be hydraulic connections. Thus, as work is completed at the Red & Bonita Mine, EPA plans to monitor flow rates at the Gold King Mine. ~~EPA was working to reopen the GKM so we could monitor any impacts on water flows and levels from plugging the R&B on the GKM. With the flow from the GKM being captured, we have the ability to monitor flow rates over the winter from the GKM. Once the R&B is shut in, we can determine if there are any impacts on the GKM.~~

**Melissa Greer Dreyfus**

**Environmental Health Scientist**

**Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch**  
**Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation**  
**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**Phone: 703-603-8792**

**email: [dreyfus.melissa@epa.gov](mailto:dreyfus.melissa@epa.gov)**

**From:** Stalcup, Dana  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 1:25 PM  
**To:** StClair, Christie; Deitz, Randy; Dreyfus, Melissa G.  
**Cc:** Cohen, Nancy; Bassler, Rachel  
**Subject:** RE: Denver Post (ddl cob tomorrow): GKM looking ahead

I have looped in Melissa Dreyfuss on our end.

I have a few thoughts. On #1, agree it is good to refer to Silverton and Colorado. However, this does somewhat relate to questions such as possible NPL listing. Do we / should we have a standard answer on EPA's potential involvement in long-term cleanup such as NPL listing, etc. Just wondering.

On #2, agree that the wording can probably be revised a bit. For one thing, I think we should be careful not to say there are no connections between the mines – I don't think we know that for sure. We may know that the drilled mines are not connected, but I don't think we know about other possible hydraulic connections, so I think we should have some caveat language. Also, I agree with David's approach to saying that we can monitor the impacts as we stabilize and monitor Gold King and as we finish our work at R&B – the wording could be revised.

Just my thoughts... - Dana

Dana Stalcup

Director, Assessment and Remediation Division

OSWER/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)

Desk – 703-603-8702

Cell – 202-309-5473

**From:** StClair, Christie

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 1:17 PM

**To:** Deitz, Randy; Stalcup, Dana

**Cc:** Cohen, Nancy; Bassler, Rachel

**Subject:** Denver Post (ddl cob tomorrow): GKM looking ahead

Randy and Dana,

Here's the draft response for this inquiry. I think David Ostrander's response for Q#2 can use some massaging. Especially since we're seeing similar questions being raised and we'll want to be sure we have a good answer moving forward. Can you help? Call if you'd like to chat.

Thanks,

Christie

Jesse Paul

Denver Post

DDL flexible but by 10/1

Inquiry:

1. I'm looking towards the future of the area. There's a lot of interest in how Silverton will react moving forward and how to deal with the problem of mitigation and clean up in the Upper Animas. Any thoughts on that?

Off the record, we can't speculate on Silverton's future actions. We suggest talking to Bill Gardner, Silverton's Town Administrator – [bgardner@silverton.co.us](mailto:bgardner@silverton.co.us) 970.387.5522 x13. Additionally, CDPHE is convening a conversation on long-term mitigation strategies. Contact Monica Desch Sheets, 303-692-3439, [Monica.Sheets@state.co.us](mailto:Monica.Sheets@state.co.us) or Doug Jamison, 303-692-3404, [Doug.Jamison@state.co.us](mailto:Doug.Jamison@state.co.us)

2. I'm also curious to see if plugging the R&B will increase flows from the GKM?

There are no direct mining tunnel connections between the Red & Bonita Mine and the Gold King Mine. EPA was working to reopen the GKM so we could monitor any impacts on water flows and levels from plugging the R&B on the GKM. With the flow from the GKM being captured, we have the ability to monitor flow rates over the winter from the GKM. Once the R&B is shut in, we can determine if there are any impacts on the GKM.

**Christie St. Clair**

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, DC

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780